

B-3709

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

117

1. Name

historic Continental Trust Company Building

and or common Continental Trust Company Building

2. Location

street & number 1 South Calvert Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Baltimore

N/A vicinity of

congressional district Third

state Maryland code 24 county independent city code 510

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name RGBV Associates, c/o Edward B. Vinson

street & number 7000 Security Boulevard, Suite 316

city, town Baltimore

vicinity of

state Maryland 21207

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

street & number 100 North Calvert Street

city, town Baltimore

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historical Sites Surveyhas this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

date 1981

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis

state Maryland 21401

7. Description

B-3709

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Continental Trust Company is a 16-story skyscraper of early modern construction, with steel structural members clad with terra-cotta fireproofing and tile-arch floors. Its form is based on the Classical column, with base, shaft and capital. The building's main facades (north and west) are three and five bays wide, respectively. They are of painted brick above the fourth floor with painted stone trim. Each bay is divided into three windows above the fourth floor with the central window in each bay slightly larger. The central window in each bay is also surmounted by a classical pediment at every second level of the shaft. At the alternate levels, a string course projects. The base of the building is of granite to the fourth floor, with arched windows in each bay running full height and divided by a heavy stone spandrel at the second floor. Stonework at the first floor level is rusticated and part of the first floor is set in an areaway on the west side, which accommodates the site's gentle slope to the south. The cornice, which originally covered the sixteenth floor at the north and west, was mostly removed after the Great Fire of 1904, and was replaced by double-hung windows similar to those below. Only the portion of the cornice in the southernmost two bays on the Calvert Street side remains. It is heavily dentiled, projecting several feet and has terra cotta shields on the frieze above each window and each column.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Continental Trust Company is a 16-story skyscraper of modern construction, with steel structural members clad with terra-cotta fireproofing and tile-arch floors. Its form is based on the Classical column, with base, shaft and capital. In styling and detail it is exceptionally Classical for Burnham's office of this period.

The building's main facades (north and west) are three and five bays wide, respectively. They are of painted brick above the fourth floor with painted stone trim. Each bay is divided into three windows above the fourth floor with the central window in each bay slightly larger. The central window in each bay is also surmounted by a classical pediment at every second level of the shaft. At the alternate levels, a string course projects. The base of the building is of granite to the fourth floor, with arched windows in each bay running full height and divided by a heavy stone spandrel at the second floor. The Baltimore Street (north) entrance is in the central bay, surmounted by a large bronze eagle. Smaller eagles sit atop the cast-iron spandrels of the arched bays at the third floor level. The Calvert Street (west) entrance passes under a rounded pediment bearing a shield with the letters "CB". Stonework at the first floor level is rusticated and part of the first floor is set in an areaway on the west side, which accommodates the site's gently slope to the south.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continental Trust Company Building

Continuation sheet Baltimore City, Maryland

Item number

7 & 9

Page

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The cornice, which originally covered the sixteenth floor at the north and west, was mostly removed after the Great Fire of 1904, and was replaced by double-hung windows similar to those below. Only the portion of the cornice in the southernmost two bays on the Calvert Street side remains. It is heavily dentiled, projecting several feet and has terra cotta shields on the frieze above each window and each column.

Of the minor facades of the building, all of which are brick, both the south facade adjoining Calvert Street and the east facade adjoining Baltimore Street are painted a buff color, like the main facade.

The other facades, most of which face an interior court, are of a light brown brick. There is a single projecting "Chicago bay" window to the east. The interior court once allowed light and air to the original bank lobby below. This lobby on the second floor, once had a mezzanine at the third level. The heavy steel vault in the lobby was removed at the time of the building's scale in 1933, and the third level was filled in completely in 1958. At that same time, the upper flight of stairs was added in the Baltimore Street lobby to service the third floor and a mechanical room was added on the fourth level roof above the bank lobby.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore City Land Records, Courthouse, Baltimore, MD

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation files, City Hall,
Baltimore, MD

~~Mooney, E. Financial Interest of Baltimore. Baltimore N.P. 1912, pp 46-48/~~

~~Dorsey, John & James D. Dilts, A Guide to Baltimore Architecture.
Cambridge, MD.: Tidewater Publishers, 1973, p. 68.~~

8. Significance

B-3709

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1900, 1901; 1904 Builder/Architect D. H. Burnham & Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criterion: A

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The significance of the Continental Trust Company Building derives primarily from the history of the institution and the building. The firm, the Continental Trust Company, chartered in 1898, was instrumental in merging several Baltimore light and gas companies into one city-wide system. Through this involvement, the Continental Trust played an important role in the development of Baltimore in the early years of the twentieth century as a financial, commercial, and urban center on the east coast. Additional significance is achieved from the building's history. Constructed in 1900-1901 to designs prepared by D. H. Burnham and Company of Chicago, the building is a survivor of the 1904 fire that destroyed 100+ acres in the present financial district. Rehabilitated after the fire, Continental Trust Company Building is characteristic of the skyscraper type of structure being erected in this section of Baltimore at the turn of the century and extensively built following the 1904 fire.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Continental Trust Company Building was constructed in 1900-1901 to designs prepared by D. H. Burnham and Company of Chicago. The design of the building was shown in a 1900 issue of The Brickbuilder. Charles McCall of Philadelphia was the General Contractor hiring Bartlett, Heyward and Company to furnish and install the steel work and the Carnegie Steel Company of Pittsburg to produce the Main Vault of "Harveyized" steel. The total cost at that time was \$700,000. Until the time of the great Baltimore Fire in February 1904, the Continental Trust Company building was the tallest in the city (two hundred nine (209) feet). Following the fire, though, the interior was destroyed; Burnham came to Baltimore and declared that the building was still structurally sound. The Continental Trust Company took bids for reconstruction on July 6, 1904 from three major firms, including Murphy Construction Company, Tidewater Building Company and the Thompson-Starrett Company. Thompson-Starrett Company won the award at the cost of \$500,000.

The Continental Trust Company was chartered by the Maryland Legislature in 1898 and began business the following year. Three key people in organizing the firm were S. Dabies Warfield, Alexander Brown and William Marbury, all names prominent in the annals of Baltimore commercial history of the late nineteenth century (Mooney). The firm played important roles in the merger of electric light and gas companies, street railways, and the cotton duck industry

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continental Trust Company Building
Continuation sheet Baltimore City, Maryland Item number

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

in Baltimore. On 28 July 1930, Continental Trust Company, the Drovers and Mechanics Bank, and the National Trust Company merged with the Maryland Trust Company. The building at Calvert and Baltimore Street was sold to the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company in 1933.

In February 1904, a 100+ acre section of Baltimore bounded by Liberty Street on the west, Fayette Street on the north, West Falls Avenue on the east, and the harbor on the south was destroyed by fire. The present-day financial district, which includes the Continental Trust Company Building, is part of this burnt area. The section which developed as the financial district consisted of eighteenth and nineteenth century structures ranging from houses to commercial buildings. By the close of the nineteenth century, the area developed commercially with many of the earlier structures remodeled for new uses and new multi-storied bank and office buildings erected but the area did still retain some of the character of the nineteenth century. With the fire all but about eight buildings in the burnt district remained standing although generally extensively damaged.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Baltimore East, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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| 4 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 0 |
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are delineated on the enclosed map and constitute a city lot.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | N/A | code | county | code |
|-------|-----|------|--------|------|
| state | | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Meyers

organization Meyers and D'Aleo, Inc. date November 1981

street & number 108 Water Street telephone (301) 752-7848

city or town Baltimore state Maryland 21202

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

[Signature]

12-22-82

title

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

REVISIONS AND COMMENTS

DATE: 12-22-82 that this property is included in the National Register

date

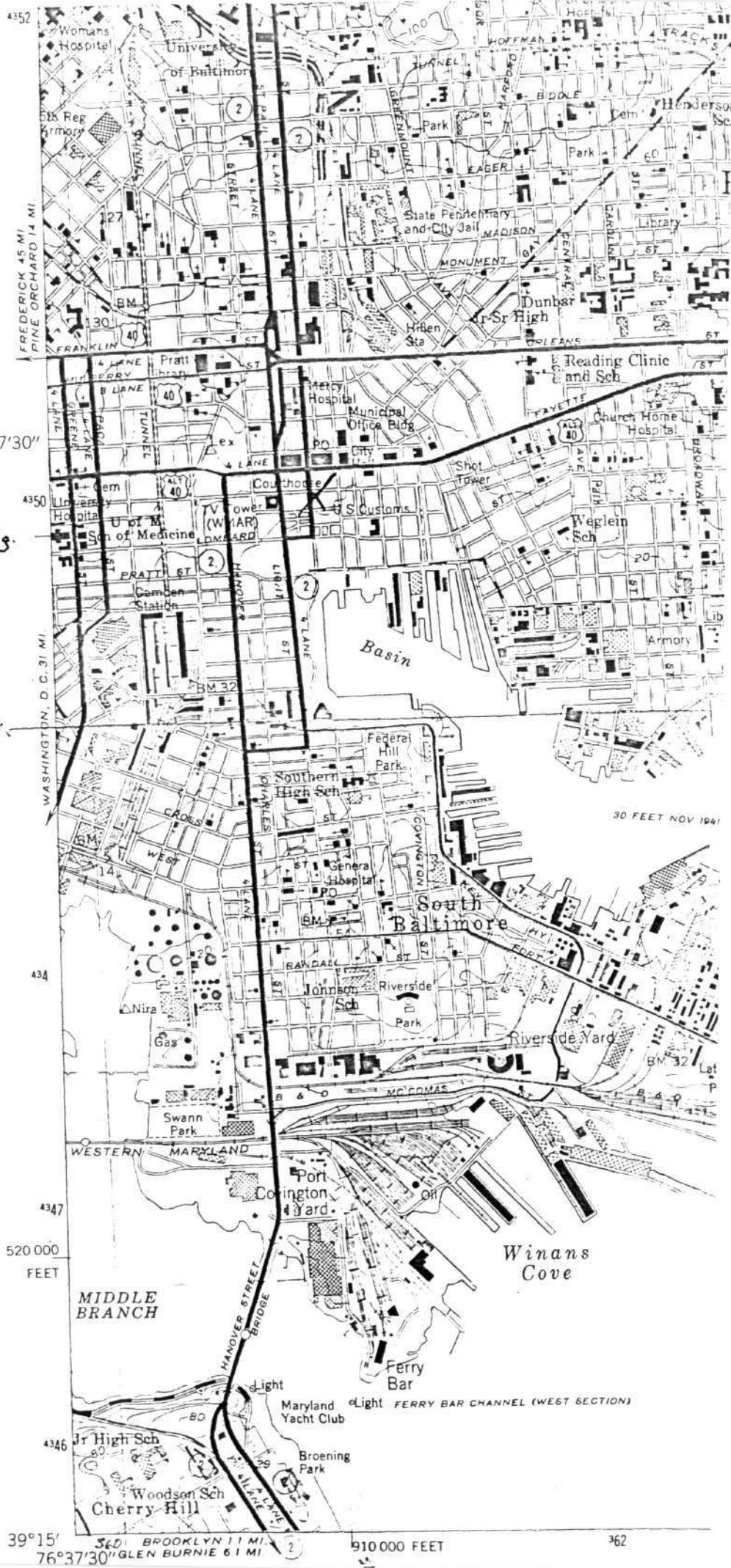
B-3709

Continental Trust Co. Bldg.
Baltimore
Maryland

A 18/360950/4349950

4349

17°30"





3 - Street view from
northwest. 209-E.
Baltimore to the left.

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Continental Trust Company
Baltimore, Maryland
15 Jan. 1982
Photo & Neg: Janice E. Rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave., Baltimore, MD
Street view from northwest

1/11

5a
6a

15 Jan 82

PRODUCTION BY
Janis rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21228
301 - 744-8614



Continental Trust Company
Baltimore, Maryland

15 Jan. 1982

Photo & Neg: Janice E. Rettaliata

1702 Edmondson Ave., Baltimore, MD

Aerial view from northwest

2/11

5a
4

15 Jan 82

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
Janis rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21228
301 - 744-8614

2- Aerial view from
northwest.

B-3709



1 - Aerial view from
northwest. One South
Calvert in center,
~~Mercantile to its right~~

8-3709

Continental Trust Company

Baltimore, Maryland

15 Jan. 1982

Photo & Neg: Janice E. Rettaliata

1702 Edmondson Ave., Baltimore, MD

Aerial view from northwest; one South Calvert
in center

3/11

15 Jan 82

PROCESSED BY
Janis Rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21228
301 744-8614

B-3709



Continental Trust Company
Baltimore, Maryland
15 Jan. 1982
Photo & Neg: Janice E. Rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave., Baltimore, MD
Calvert Street Entrance
4/11

Calvert Street entrance.

#1982-05a
c0lfr02a

15 Jan 82

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:

B-3709

B-3709



Continental Trust Company
Baltimore, Maryland
15 Jan. 1982
Photo & Neg: Janice E. Rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave., Baltimore, MD
View up west facade
5/11

#1982-05a
c01fr22a

15 Jan 82

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ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
Janis rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave.

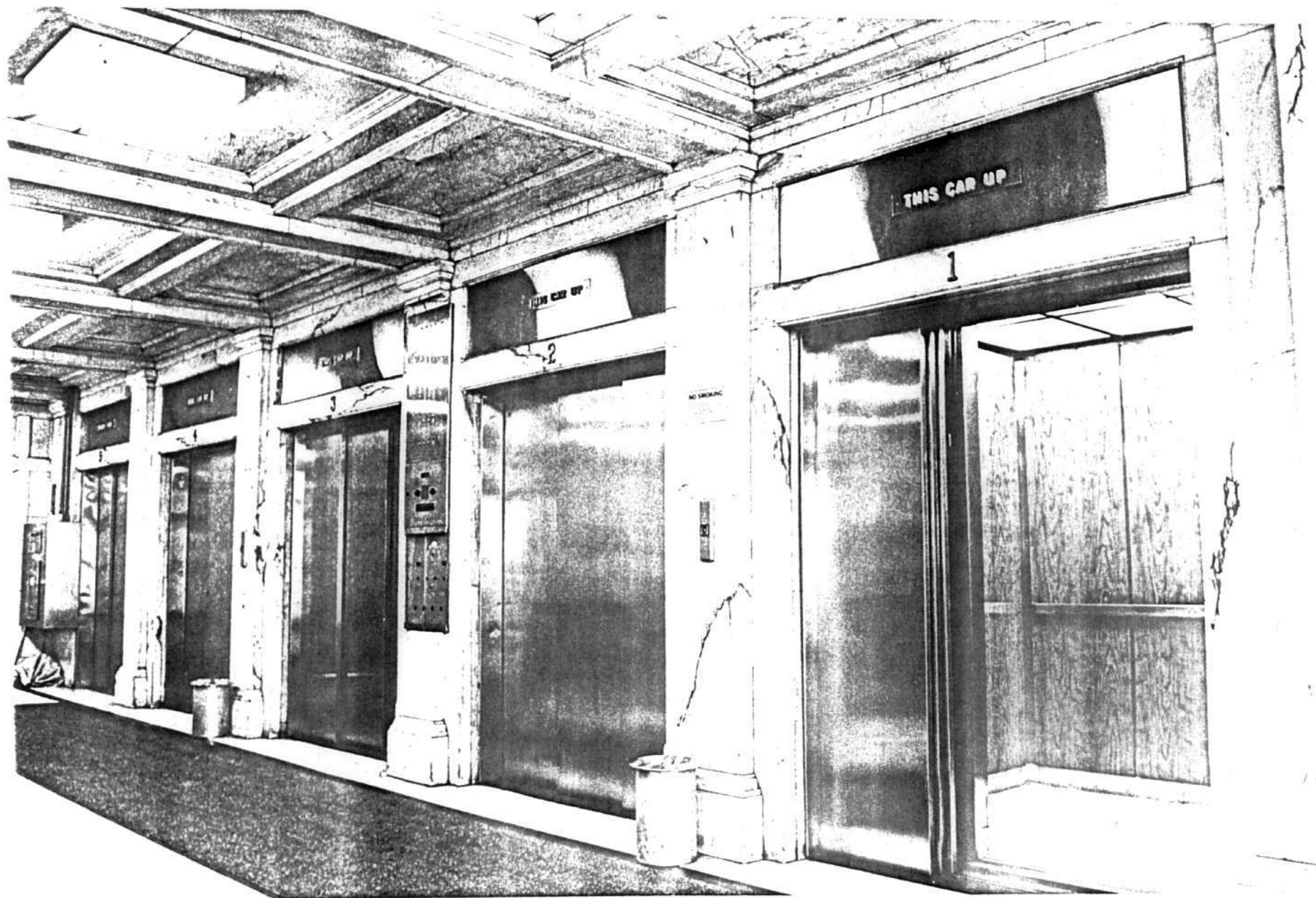
6 - One South Carver
West facade.

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Continental Trust Company
Baltimore, Maryland
15 Jan. 1982
Photo & Neg: Janice E. Rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave., Baltimore, MD
View from southwest
6/11

B-3709



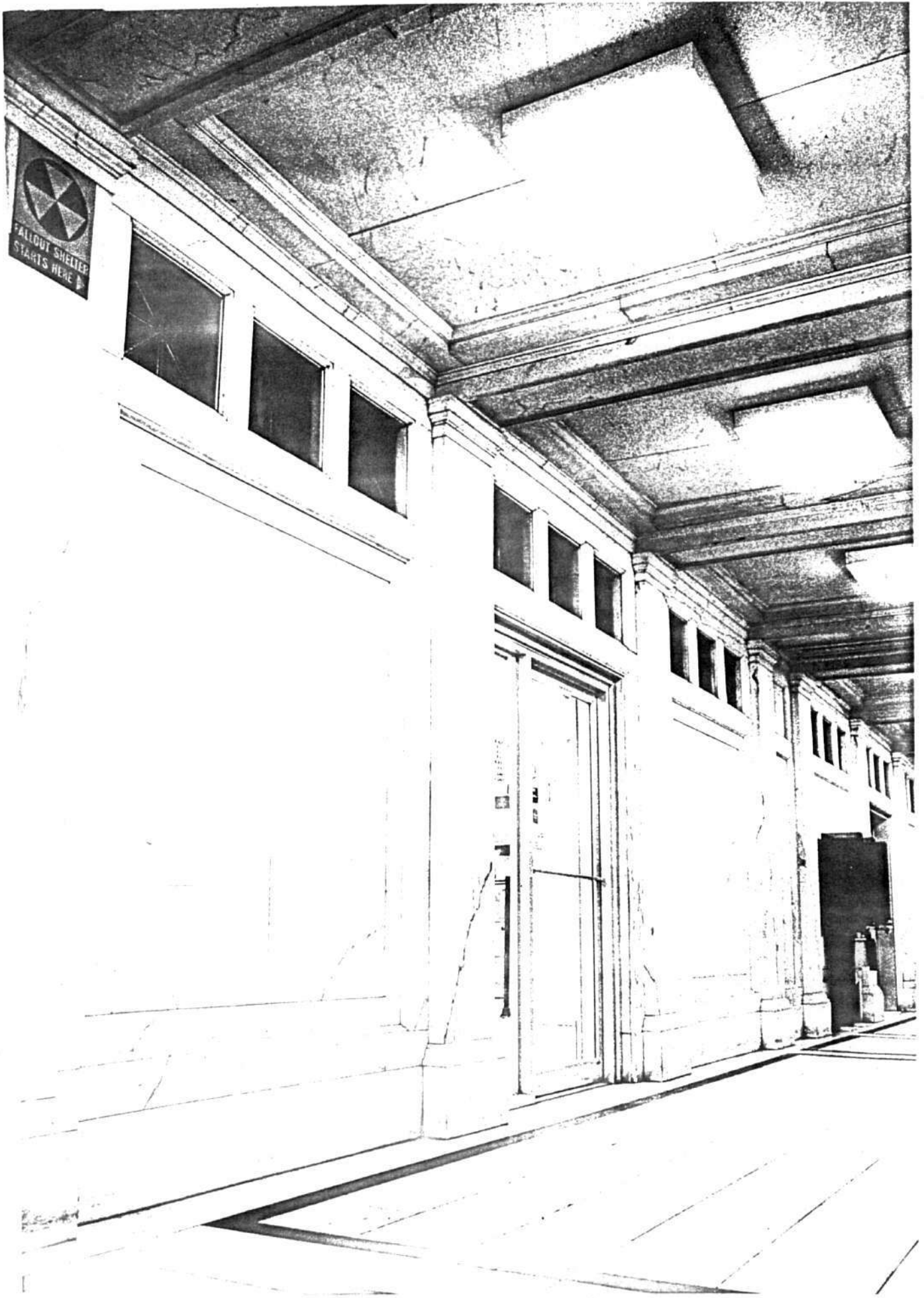
Continental Trust Company
Baltimore, Maryland
15 Jan. 1982
Photo & Neg: Janice E. Rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave., Baltimore, MD
Elevator Lobby
7/11

#1982-05a
c02fr03

15 Jan 82

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
Janice Rettaliata

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10-~~One~~ 4th Catvert.
View long lobby
corridor.

Continental Trust Company
Baltimore, Maryland
15 Jan. 1982
Photo & Neg: Janice E. Rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave., Baltimore, MD
View along lobby corridor
8/11

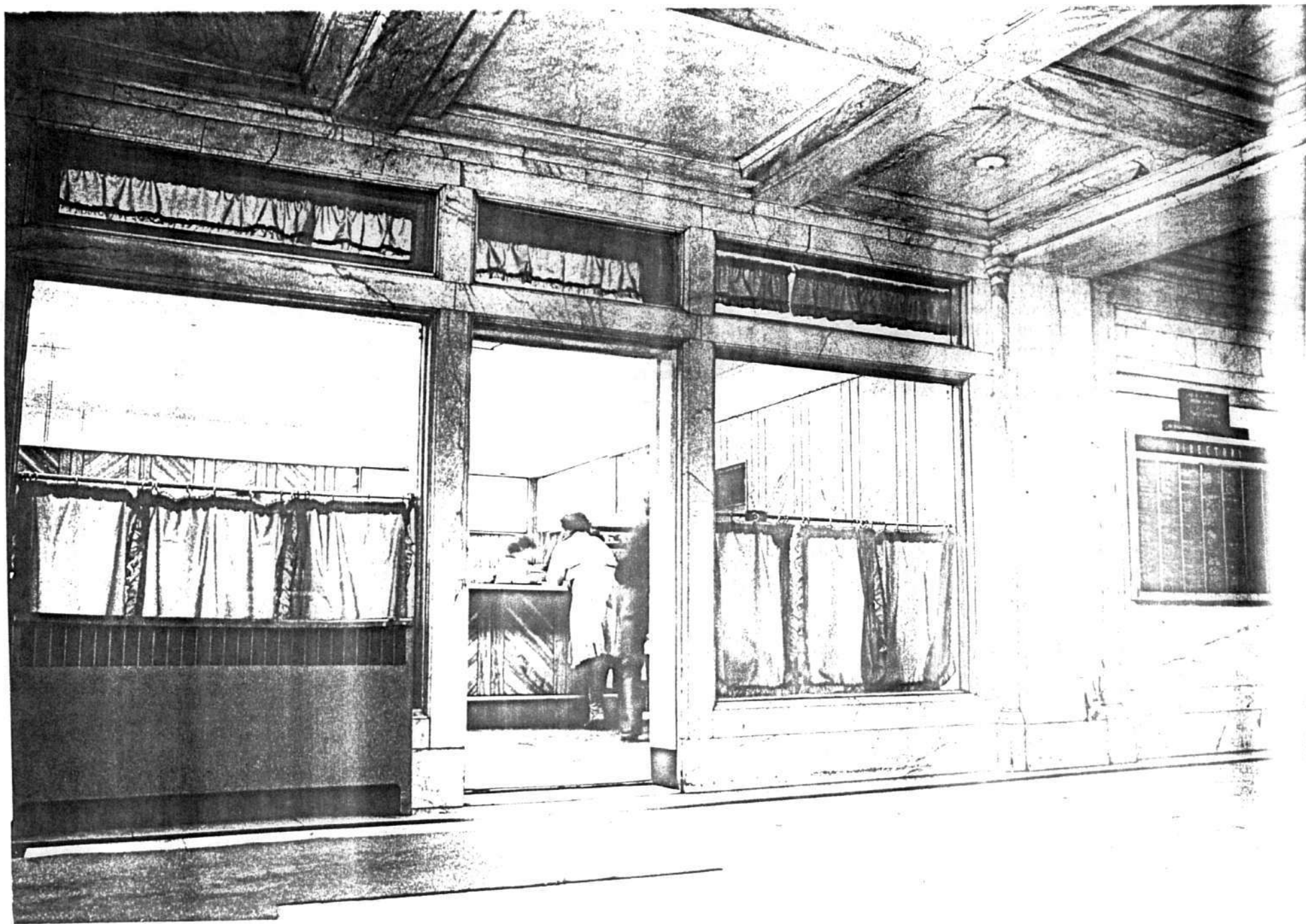
WATR

15 Jan 82

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
Janis rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21228
401 - 764 8614

B-3709

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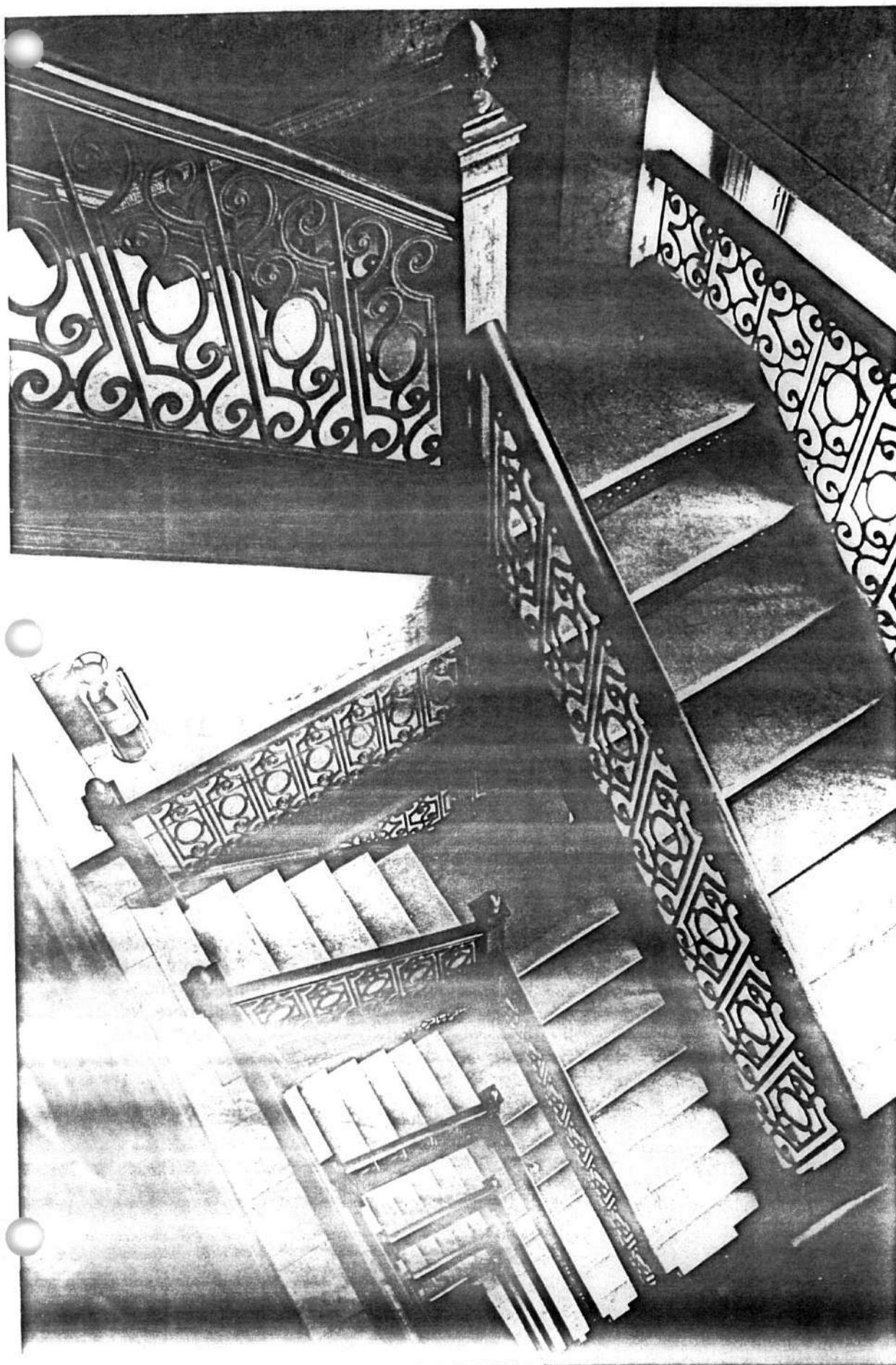


Continental Trust Company
Baltimore, Maryland
15 Jan. 1982
Photo & Neg: Janice E. Rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave., Baltimore, MD
Restaurant and lobby
9/11

~~14 - One South Calvert.~~
Restaurant in lobby.

#1982-05a
c05fr24a

15 Jan 82



13 - One South Calvert. Stair
above fourth floor.

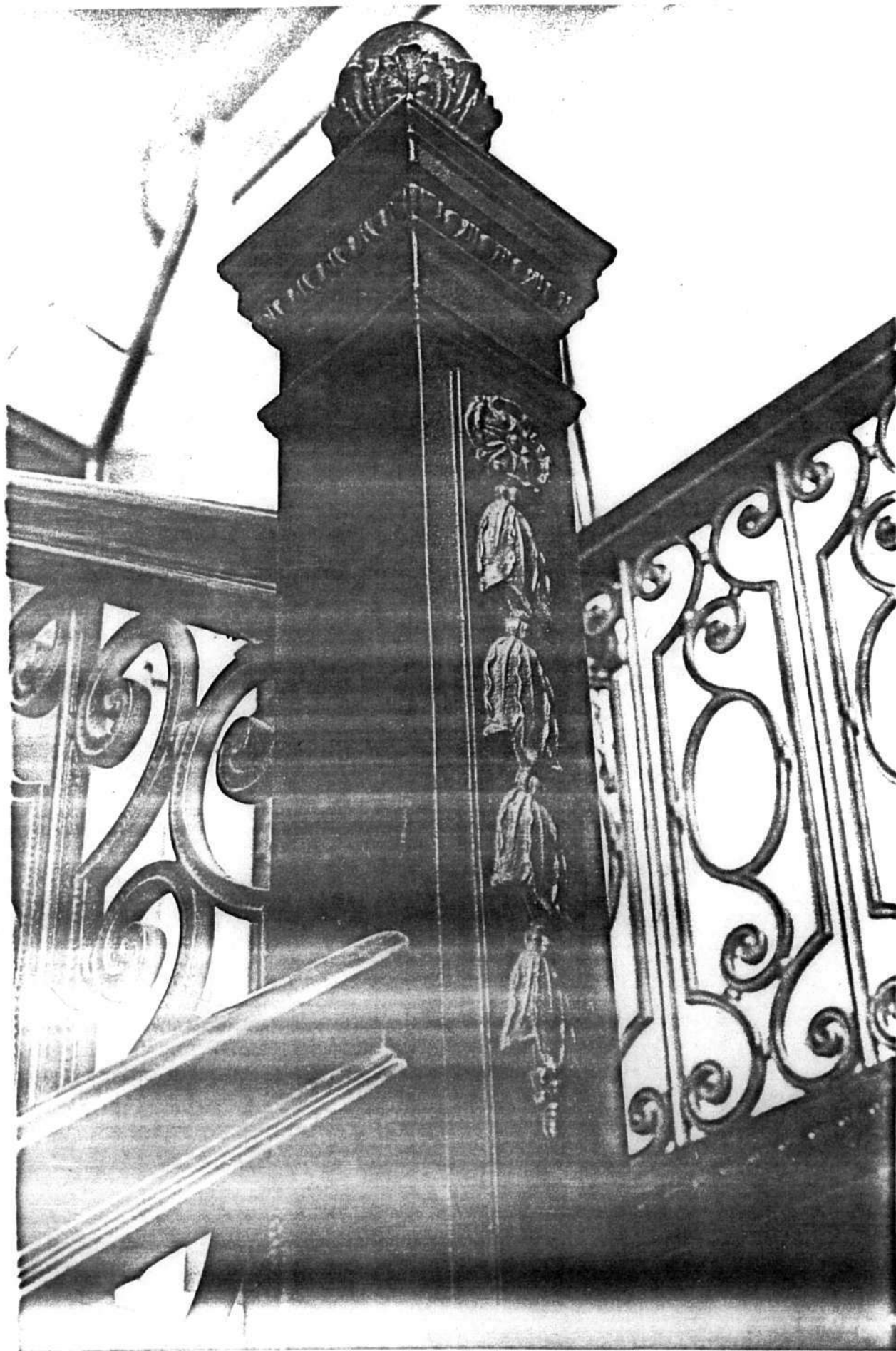
B-3709

Continental Trust Company
Baltimore, Maryland
15 Jan. 1982
Photo & Neg: Janice E. Rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave., Baltimore, MD
Stair above fourth floor
10/11

#1982-05a
c04fr28a

15 Jan 82

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
Janis rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave,
Baltimore, MD 21228
301 - 744-8614



Continental Trust Company
Baltimore, Maryland

15 Jan. 1982

Photo & Neg: Janice E. Rettaliata

1702 Edmondson Ave., Baltimore, MD.

Stair Newell - above fourth floor

11/11

E. RETTALIATA
ERIVED

15 Jan 82

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
Janis rettaliata
1702 Edmondson Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21228
301 - 744-6614

floor. - above fourth stair

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AREA: Financial District

MAGI NO.: 0437095711

Address: 201-207 East Baltimore Street
Current Name: One Calvert Plaza

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Block: 650 Lot: 4 | Lot size: 100' x 136' |
| Height: 15 stories | Materials: Granite, brick & terra cotta |
| Condition: Good | Owner: One Calvert Company |
| Use: Offices | Accessible: Yes |
| Designation: NR | Liber/Folio: RHB 2966-686 |



Historic Name: Continental Building

Date: 1900-01

Architect/Builder: D. H. Burnham & Company (Chicago)/Charles McCaul (1900),
Thompson-Sterrett Co. (1904)

Style (if appropriate):

Description:

The Continental Building is fifteen stories high, three bays wide along Baltimore Street and five bays wide at Calvert Street. The smooth granite first floor level features large arches. The main central entrance on Baltimore Street is defined by colossal Ionic engaged columns supporting an entablature that is surmounted by two bronze eagles. A projecting entrance with bronze doors is surmounted by a large transom and a stone entablature. The other arched openings are filled with three-part windows with decorative mullions featuring small eagles. The third floor is also faced with stone and features one over one windows between simple pilasters. The one over one windows on the next eight floors alternate between no decoration and circular or triangular pediments above the central windows of each bay. Band courses are located above every two floors. Large engaged columns define the thirteenth and fourteenth floors which feature terra cotta garland designs at the floor levels. Only a small portion of the original cornice remains on the southern end of the Calvert Street elevation. The elaborate cornice is decorated with dentils, modillion blocks, large end brackets and terra cotta panels. Most of the cornice has been removed and replaced by windows on the fifteenth floor. Storefronts are located at the basement level of the building, and a secondary entrance at Calvert Street features a round pediment, bronze doors and the logo "C" over "B" (for Continental Building) in an ornamental shield.

Significance:

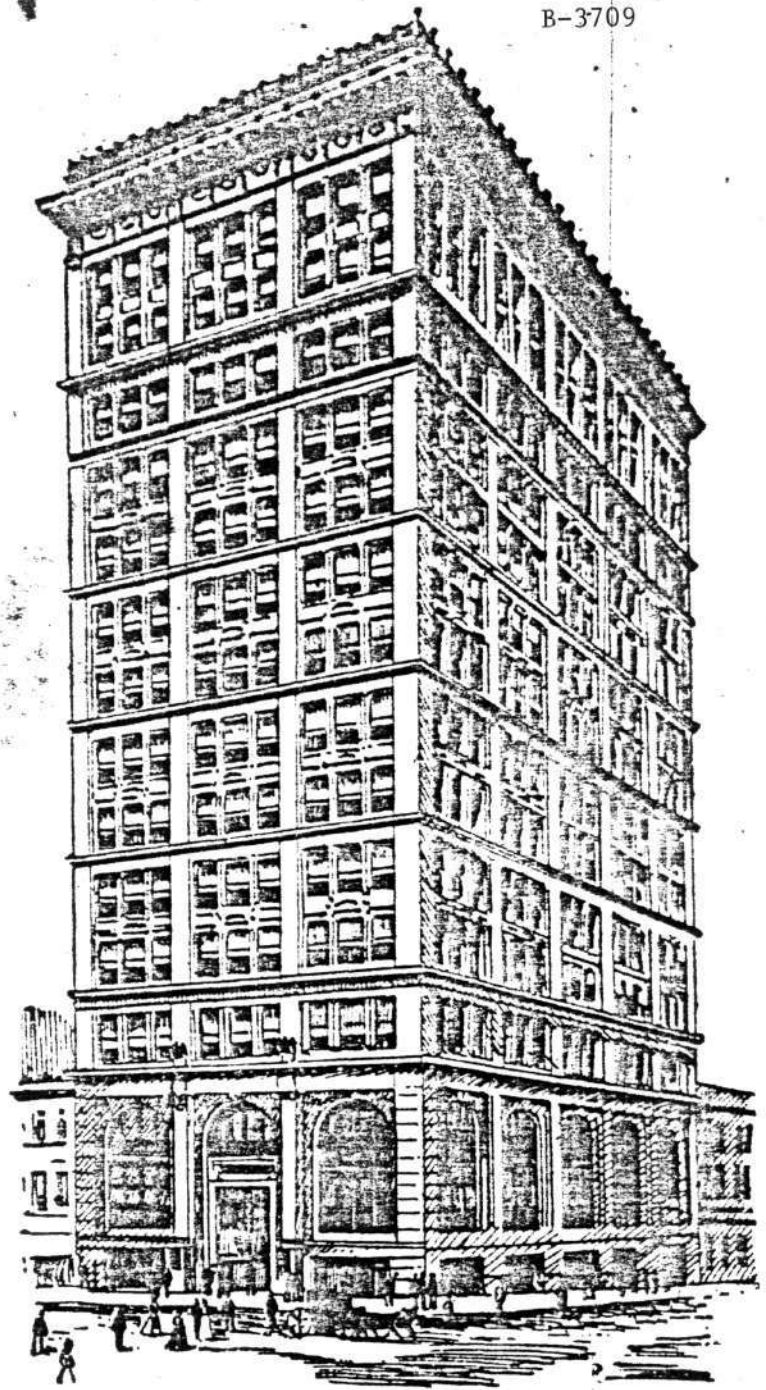
Area: Architecture, Commerce

Level: Local

The Continental Building is significant as Baltimore's only example of the work of D. H. Burnham, one of the most influential Chicago architects of the late nineteenth century. This was the tallest building in Baltimore when it was constructed in 1900-01. The building was constructed by the Continental Trust Company, an important local financial institution that was instrumental in merging several Baltimore gas and light companies into one city-wide system. The building is also significant as a surviving building of the 1904 Baltimore Fire. Although the interior was gutted, the steel frame construction and exterior terra cotta survived the fire and the building was repaired. The most damaging alteration to the building was the removal of much of the cornice in the 1950s. This building has recently undergone an extensive rehabilitation utilizing the historic preservation tax incentives.

Sources: BS 1/17/1900 p. 10 (permit issued); BS 4/23/1900 p. 7 (illustration); BS 5/23/1901 p. 7 (opening); BS 9/22/1904 p. 11 c. 1 (permit to rebuild); BS 5.13.1904 p. 12 c. 5 (article).

Surveyor and Date: Fred B. Shoken, July 1985.



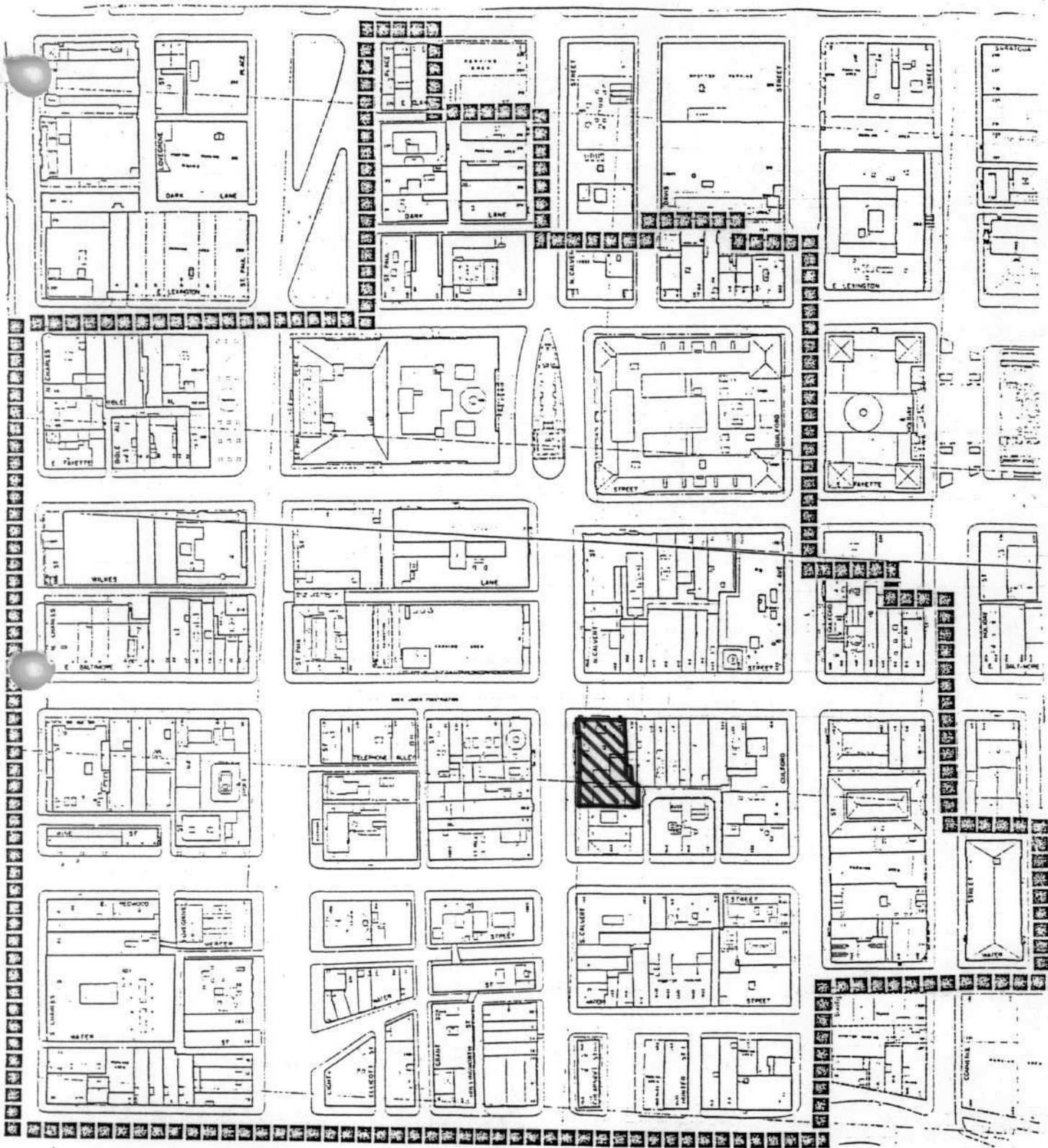
THE CONTINENTAL TRUST BUILDING.

The accompanying cut shows the new 14-story building of the Continental Trust Company, now in process of erection at the southeast corner of Baltimore and Calvert streets. Crowds daily watch the interesting work in the deep excavations on the sub-structure of this new building which, when completed, will be the largest in the city. Besides the 14 stories there is a basement and an attic, giving the building actually 16 floors. It fronts 75 feet 10 inches on Baltimore street and 136 feet on Calvert street. When finished it will rise 200 feet above the level of the street. The shot tower at Fayette and Front streets is 250 feet high.

The appointments of the new building will embody many features, both of convenience and luxury, which are late developments in building construction. The architects are D. H. Burnham & Co., of Chicago. Mr. Burnham was one of the chief architects of the famous group of buildings at the World's Fair. Charles McCaul is the contractor and the steel work is furnished

by Bartlett, Hayward & Co. Up to the third floor the building will be of granite and above that of terra cotta.

In the steel construction a novel feature is the minimum number of steel pillars which will run through the building, thus giving an exceptional amount of clear space. The main entrance in the center of the Baltimore street front will run back to an entrance at the south end of the Calvert street side, which will also give an open way into the court leading to German street. What will be one of the handsomest banking and trust rooms in the United States will be fitted up on the main floor for the general offices of the Continental Trust Company. The safe deposit vault, which will be built of Harveyized nickel steel similar to that used in the armor plates of warships, is now in process of manufacture. In the building will be placed steam heating, electric lighting and refrigerating plants. The aggregate cost will probably approach \$700,000. Old Carroll Hall formerly occupied the greater portion of the site of the new building.



Baltimore Financial District Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland



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Continental Building
201-207 East Baltimore Street



B-3709

Continental Building
201-207 East Baltimore Street
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Fred Shoken
Date: July 1985
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Northwest corner view



B-3709

Continental Building
201-207 East Baltimore Street
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Fred Shoken
Date: July 1985
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Northwest corner view